

SCOTT R. TIPTON  
3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO

218 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-4761

FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
HOUSING, COMMUNITY  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0603

Governor Jared Polis  
State Capitol Building  
200 E. Colfax Ave, Rm. 136  
Denver, CO 80203

April 23, 2020

Dear Governor Polis,

I am writing to follow-up on the conversation we had on April 17, 2020, concerning the manner in which the State of Colorado will allocate the funding it receives under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and respond to your letter dated April 22, 2020. I appreciate your prompt reply to my inquiry about the CARES Act funding.

My understanding of our conversation is that you expect Colorado's Joint Budget Committee (JBC) to develop a framework that will help guide decisions about how the CARES Act funding will be allocated, and decisions on spending will be made by the General Assembly. Further, my understanding of our conversation is that the Governor's office will not have discretion over how the majority of the federal funding is allocated.

The Memorandum from the JBC dated April 3, 2020, outlines the various categories of federal funding the State of Colorado will receive under the CARES Act and reiterates that funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, specifically, "cannot be used to address revenue losses but only unanticipated expenses due to COVID-19." In addition to the approximately \$1.68 billion the State of Colorado will receive from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, according to the JBC memo, the state will also receive approximately \$487.6 million through federal programmatic and grant funding that is intended to "supplement, not supplant current state funding." The memo notes "a substantial portion of this funding may not be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly." In addition to the federal funding the State of Colorado will receive through the CARES Act, President Trump's approval of a Major Disaster Declaration for the state will make Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding available to the state and tribal and local governments for emergency protective measures for all areas affected by COVID-19 at a

federal cost share of 75 percent. Understanding that the needs of the state, tribes and local governments would be great, I strongly supported your request for the Major Disaster Declaration.

I share the goal of making sure our small cities and counties receive the necessary funding to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, which is why I have supported the Coronavirus Community Relief Act and taken great interest in how the state will allocate federal dollars. To better understand the toll the pandemic has had on the state's budget and to inform future decision-making about federal spending, I hope you can provide me with more information on the cost of the state's response to the pandemic and the degree to which the \$487.6 million in federal programmatic and grant funding along with the federal share of FEMA Major Disaster Public Assistance funding will help offset those costs. Specifically, I request the following information:

- 1) The total amount money the State of Colorado has spent on COVID-19 pandemic response to date, beyond what the state had budgeted for potential pandemic response in 2020.
- 2) The amount of money the State of Colorado expects to receive through FEMA Major Disaster Public Assistance.
- 3) An assessment of how the \$487.6 million in federal programmatic and grant funding will help supplement the various state budget items outlined in the JBC's memo, and an outline of budget shortfalls that may remain.
- 4) An estimate of any funding you plan to make available from Colorado's \$1.68 billion share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the 59 county governments that are not eligible to apply directly to the U.S. Treasury for federal aid under the CARES Act.

I know time and resources are limited during this unprecedented time, and I understand you and your office may not yet have the exact numbers to answer the questions above. I would appreciate the most accurate estimates that you can share. I appreciate your prompt attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Tipton", with a large circular flourish above the name.

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress